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SELECT FORM OF PRAYER,

O R,
Office of Devotion:

Made use of on the
Last SOLEMN and PUBLIC FAST:

Now Published and Recommended as proper
to assist all Serious and Devout Minds in re-
collecting and strengthening their Pious
Sentiments and Vows on that Occasion.

To which is added,

An ACT of HUMILIATION, or a Prayer more
immediately adapted to the Situation and Aspect
of our National Affairs at this Day.

*Deos placatos facit Pietas et Sanctitas. — nec est ulla erga Deos
Pietas, nisi honesta de numine eorum, ac mente Opinio; quum
expeti nihil ab iis quod sit injustum, ac inhonestum arbitrare, &c.
Cic. Orat. pro Domo sua.*

*We cannot, I speak it again, we cannot possibly exceed in our Cau-
tion not to abuse the Liberty that is left us in this important Ar-
ticle of our Public Prayers. Fordyce on Public Instit.*

L O N O N:

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[Price Six-pence.]

SELECT FORM OF PRAYER

Office of Devotion:

For Sabbath and Festival:

New Published and Revised Edition
 To which all the most approved
 Collects and Prayers have been
 carefully selected and arranged.

For the use of the
 Ministry and People
 of our Churches.

By the Rev. J. C. F. Smith, D.D.
 of the University of Cambridge.
 With the assistance of
 the Rev. J. H. F. Smith, D.D.
 of the University of Cambridge.

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 of the University of Cambridge.

OFFICES

IN THE

MORNING.



LET us lift up our Hearts to God in Prayer, and implore his Presence, and Blessing with us in the solemn Service of this Day.

RESPONSES.

God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause his Face to shine upon us.

O Lord thou art the great *Jehovah*, thou art from everlasting, before the Earth and the Worlds were made. — And, thou wilt continue to exist when time shall be no more, — when this Earth, and these visible Heavens, shall pass away, and all the *Elements* and *Works of Nature* shall be dissolved.

Thou art the great, the mighty, the incomprehensible God, a Being possessed of infinite Power, Holiness, and Justice; a God of un-

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blemished

blemished Truth and Faithfulness, of perfect Understanding, Wisdom, and Righteousness.

And, as thou art possessed of all Perfections and Happiness in thyself, the blessed and only Potentate, so thou art able and ready to communicate every fit and proper Degree of Happiness to all thy reasonable Creatures, who are the fit and proper Objects of thy Mercy.—We would, therefore, bow down before thee, at this time, with all becoming and right Dispositions of Soul ; with the greatest Reverence of thy Majesty ; and with a humble Trust and Confidence in thy Mercy.

O pour upon us, and upon all Ranks and Degrees of Men this Day, a Spirit of Grace and Supplication, a Spirit of Repentance and Reformation, that Iniquity may not prove our Ruin.—And, assist us by thy Grace in every Exercise and Duty that now lies before us. Incline our Hearts to pray, and cause thine Ear to hear, and render effectual all those Instructions, Counsels and Warnings, that may be read or spoken at this time, or in any of thy Churches this Day, here and elsewhere.

Be with every Heart and Spirit in this Assembly, and so Influence all our Minds that we may offer up unto thee an acceptable Offering, and not the Sacrifice of Fools. May our Prayers proceed from an upright Heart, and a pure Intention, from a kind, placable, merciful, and forgiving Spirit towards all our Fellow-creatures, and every part of Mankind.—Let no one here secretly judge, or censure
his

his Neighbour, or Fellow-worshipper ; but let every Man look well to his own Heart ; and let us all remember, that unless we forgive Men their Trespases, neither will our heavenly Father forgive us our Trespases.

Enable us, O Lord, to wait upon thee without Distraction, or Weariness, with all Humility, Seriousness, and true Devotion.—And let every thing we do at this present time, be done with Understanding and Sincerity, in the Name of Christ, the great, the only Mediator, and in a humble Dependence upon those spiritual and divine Aids which we are encouraged to expect and hope for in all our religious Services.

Thou, Lord, art greatly to be feared in the Assembly of thy Saints ; and who may stand in thy Sight when once thou art angry ?—Thou art the great, and the holy God, awful in Power and Justice, and terrible in Majesty.—But this is our Support, our Stay and Confidence at all times, that thou art a merciful and a good Being, the great Parent of the Universe, and the Friend and Patron of all who put their Trust in thee.

Though thy Judgments are a great Deep, and the Ways of thy Providence in the Government of the World, and in the Direction and Conduct of all human Affairs are past finding out ; yet we are firmly persuaded that thy Righteousness is as the great Mountains, that thy Mercy is everlasting, and that thy Truth endures to all Generations.

And,

And, now, O Lord God, under the deep and lively Impression of these Sentiments, we would engage in the solemn Work and Service of this Day, looking for Audience and Acceptance through Jesus Christ, to whom with thee, O Father, be glory, honour and praise in all the Churches, World without End. *Amen.*

Let us now worship the great, the eternal God, with the utmost Solemnity and Seriousness of Spirit, and make such an Acknowledgement and Confession of our manifold Sins and Transgressions, as becomes true Penitents, and humble Supplicants, at the Throne of Grace.

RESPONSES.

O come let us worship and fall down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.—Let us serve the Lord with Fear, and rejoice before him with trembling.

O Lord God Almighty, most holy and merciful, good and gracious. — Though thou canst not but hate and abhor Sin wherever thou seest it in any of thy Creatures, yet thou delightest not in the Destruction or the Death of Sinners, but rather that they would turn from their Wickedness and live.—And thou hast been pleased for our Encouragement to assure us in thy holy Word, that, if we confess and forsake our Sins, thou Lord art faithful and just to forgive us our Sins, and to cleanse us from all Unrighteousness.

We, who are most unworthy, and less than the least of all thy Mercies, desire, at this time, to prostrate ourselves at thy Mercy Seat,
and

and with humble and contrite Hearts to own and confess the Guilt we have contracted by our repeated Follies and Transgressions.

We have sinned, O Lord, and have committed Iniquity ; we have acted foolishly and done wickedly ; and in many things we offend all.—We have sinned, and come short of thy Glory, and have greatly failed in our Duty to thee.—We have violated thy holy, righteous, and good Laws, and departed from the Way of thy Precepts : and the Instances of our Disobedience, Provocation and Ingratitude are more than we can enumerate, greater than we can estimate.

Ah ! what shall we say unto thee, O thou Preserver of Men ? Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord, or bow ourselves before the most high God ? We may well blush and be ashamed to appear before thee, our God, for our Transgressions have been multiplied in thy Sight, and our Sins testify against us.

We are not worthy to lift up our Eyes to Heaven by reason of our manifold Iniquities, and our great Trespases. And, if thou, Lord shouldst enter into Judgment with us, there would be no Hope for us. How justly mightest thou withdraw thy wonted Favour and Protection, and hinder good things from us ? How soon would the most dreadful and wasting Calamities involve and ruin us as well as *others* ?

We are a sinful Nation, a People laden with Iniquities. And when we consider the many heinous and vile Abominations that are committed

mitted amongst us, we may well tremble for fear of thee and be afraid of thy Judgments ; and especially, when we look round about us, and consider those Tokens of thy Displeasure which now hang over us. Oh, how terrible are thy Judgments ! How unsearchable are thy Ways ! How mighty and awful is thy Hand ! May we all see and adore it, when it is, at this time, in the most astonishing manner lift up so near us. May we all tremble at the Apprehensions of thy Holiness, Power, and Justice, when thou arisest to shake terribly the Earth. Ah ! who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy Name, at whose Rebuke the Earth, this massy Globe, trembles, the Mountains and the Hills shake, and the mighty Waters of the Ocean are troubled.

It becomes us, O Lord,—it becomes us, in the Sense of thine amazing Power and Providence, of thy supreme and peerless Majesty and Dominion, to cast ourselves down at thy Footstool, to bewail our Unworthiness, to deprecate thine Anger, to implore thy Pity, and the Bowels of thy Compassion.—Lord, think upon us that we perish not. God be merciful to us Sinners.

We must all say, “ it is of thy Mercy, O Lord, that we are not consumed.” It is thro’ thy rich Goodness and Forbearance that we are here alive before thee, that the devouring Sword is not unsheathed in our Borders, as it is in other Places ; that we are freed from the Tumults of War, the Terror and Consternation

tion of Earthquakes, the Rage and Fury of the different Elements, and from all those Miseries and Distresses that are produced by Fire, Famine and Pestilence.—By thy gracious Providence we are yet preserved from these sore Judgments and Calamities. O that we may, at length, think on our Ways, and turn our Feet unto thy Testimonies. May we no longer abuse thy Forbearance, or despise thy Chastisements, least worse things come upon us. May we all know in this our Day the Things that belong to our everlasting Peace, before they are hid from our Eyes.

Lord awaken our intellectual Faculties, and all the Powers of Conscience within us, that we may be humbled and abased, ashamed and confounded, as in Dust and Ashes, when we reflect upon our evil Ways, and turn unto thee in the Exercises of true and unfeigned Penitence. Hear us, O Lord, and accept of us according to thine abundant Mercy and Grace in Christ Jesus, our alone Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

RESPONSES.

Unto thee, the Lord our God, belong Mercies and Forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against thee. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy People, and cause thine Anger towards us to cease.

And, as this is appointed to be a Day of publick and solemn Humiliation, we would more particularly bewail and lament the many crying Sins and Enormities of the Land and
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Nation in which we live.—And, at the same time, we would, each of us, be deeply humbled before thee, our God, in the Sense of what we may any of us have done to augment the heavy and dreadful Load of national Guilt, by countenancing, or falling in with, the prevailing Sins and Vices of the Age.

We have all sinned : We are all polluted and depraved. The whole Head is sick ; the whole Heart is faint ; and our Distempers and Maladies this Day are very extensive, as well as threatening.—Ah ! how does Iniquity abound ; the Love of Pleasure encrease ; the Abettors of Infidelity triumph, and the Piety and Zeal of good Men themselves visibly cool and abate ! How greatly are we fallen and degenerate ! It is a Day of small things ; a Day of Darkness and Gloominess is come upon us ; and Fear and Trembling may well take hold of us.

How are thy Name and Day dishonoured by Multitudes in this Land, even by those who would be thought a holy People, and near to God ? And, how many are there who call Christ, Lord, Lord, yet do not the things which he hath taught and commanded ? How many who neglect thy Word and thy Worship, thy House and Ordinances, and even allow themselves to trifle with solemn Oaths, and with Matters of the most serious and everlasting Importance ? Ah ! how right and fit is it, that these things, which are so much for a Lamentation, and so much to our Dishonour

honour and Reproach, should be lamented and bewailed this Day, and be laid seriously to Heart by all Christians of every Denomination !

We can none of us pretend to justify, excuse, or mitigate our Crime before thee.— And, as we have all sinned, and come short of thy Glory, it becomes us, upon this Occasion, to be all, and every one of us, the more deeply concerned for that general Corruption of Manners which is but too visible amongst us, for that Impiety, Luxury, and Intemperance, that have cover'd and defiled the Land, that Love of Usury and unjust Gain, that Neglect of Justice, Righteousness, and christian Charity, that Violence of Party and Faction, and that Indifference to the publick Good, which prevails so generally amongst all Ranks and Degrees of Men, from the greatest even to the least. Because there is so little Truth, and Mercy, and Knowledge of God in the Land, we, and all the Inhabitants of the Land, may well mourn, and cover ourselves as in Sackcloth and Ashes.

Do thou, O merciful God, teach us to discover, and help us, every one, to reform and amend whatever is criminal, or unchristian in our Dispositions, or Practices, that we may at length become a wise and an understanding People, that we may consider our latter End, and do all that in us lies, by a timely Repentance, to avert those Judgments which seem

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to threaten our Lives and Liberties, and every Thing that is dear and valuable to us.

Lord have Mercy upon us, and deliver us from all Hardness and Impenitence of Heart, from Pride, and Vanity, and the Love of this World, and from the Dominion and Influence of all our Lusts and Passions. Free us from spiritual Maladies and Disorders, and conquer and subdue all our bad Habits. Purge us from all our Abominations and Vices, and bring about a speedy and a further Reformation both in Church and State. Lord, heal and repair our Breaches, cure our Divisions and Animosities, and give us another and a better Spirit, that we may not perish, as did the *Israelites*, that stubborn and rebellious Generation, who set not their Heart aright, and whose Spirit was not stedfast with God.—May we all safely pass through the Wilderness of this World, and then be received into a *City of Habitation*, a State of Rest and Quietude, where we shall sin no more, and die, and suffer no more, but be perfectly and for ever happy in thy Presence. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

R E S P O N S E S.

Attend to the Voice of our Cry, O our King and our God, for unto thee do we lift up our Souls. Turn not away our Prayer, we beseech thee, nor thy Mercy from us.

And, whilst we lament the Sins of *others*, and of the Inhabitants of these Kingdoms in general

general, we would be more peculiarly and deeply humbled under a Sense of *our own*.—We have not only sinned, and grieved thy holy Spirit as well as others, and sinned too much like others, openly, and in the Face of the Sun ; but our own Hearts and Consciences, whenever we turn in upon ourselves, must charge us with many, many Sins, that are unknown to others.—Are there not with us, even with us, Sins against the Lord our God, the holy one in the Midst of us. O that we may all mourn, every one for his own Iniquities, the Sins which do more easily beset us. Lord, search and try our Hearts, and our Thoughts, and see if there be any wicked Way in us, and lead us in the Way everlasting.

Thou, Lord, knowest the Secrets of every Breast, and that “ we desire not, at this Time, to shut our Eyes upon our own Miscarriages, nor to dissemble and choak our own Convictions ; but rather more clearly to discern what is sinful, to be more deeply sensible of the odious Nature of Sin, and its wretched Consequences, and more thoroughly convinced of the Offences we stand chargeable with in thy Sight, that with true Repentance and godly Sorrow, we may confess them unto thee, earnestly imploring thy Forgiveness, with renewed Purposes of better Obedience for the Time to come.”

Our *particular* and *private* Sins, both of the *personal* and *social* Kind, are many and great. Our Omissions and Failures in the Church,

the Family, and the Closet; our vain, worldly, envious, and covetous Thoughts; and the more secret Disorders of Heart and Life, all testify against us. Our Iniquities and Vices, our foolish and sinful Passions, are none of them hid from thee. They are all in the Light of thy Countenance.—Oh, that we may all mourn over them with a godly Sorrow and Grief of Soul, and such as worketh Repentance unto Life.

Have we any, or all of us, heretofore been too negligent and defective in *Acts of Piety*, in Works of *Mercy, Kindness, Charity*; in a candid, peaceable and forgiving Spirit; in generous and praise-worthy Actions; and in a holy, useful, exemplary Life, becoming the Gospel? May we now take Shame to ourselves, and endeavour to reform whatever has been amiss.

Have many and fair *Opportunities* for doing and getting Good been hitherto lost? May we learn to improve those better which may yet remain, and to redeem the Time, because our Days are few and evil.

Have any of our *peculiar Talents* been misapplied, and our Souls in any particular Instances neglected? May we now apply with all Earnestness to such Things as are of the greatest Importance, and mind the better Part, the one Thing needful, employing more of that Care and Thought which has hitherto been employ'd and laid out upon this World,
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in the Care of our Souls, and in securing our future and everlasting Happiness.

When the *Ways of Zion do mourn*, and so few go up to her *solemn Assemblies*, may we all, and each of us, be the more diligent and constant in our Attendance at the House of God, and find greater Pleasure and Profit in every Part of publick Worship and Instruction than heretofore.

When *private and Family Worship* is too much neglected by Professors of this present Age, may we pay a greater Attention and Regard to it, and resolve that, whatever other profane and ungodly Families do, we and ours will serve the Lord.

When we look into the *World*, and view the State of Religion, Virtue and Morality amongst us at this Day, may we all look well to ourselves, and see that in Principle and Practice our Hearts and Ways are right before God.

May we never be seduced or drawn aside by the Errors of the Wicked, by the Example of the Multitude, or by the Menaces of the Great. And, instead of falling in with the *fashionable Follies and Vices* of the Age, or doing any Thing that is contrary to the sacred Dictates of Conscience, may we all do what we can to reform others, as well as ourselves, that no wilful Iniquity, or Negligence, may be charged upon us, in that Day, when God shall judge the Secrets of Men by Jesus Christ.

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We pray, at least, that such a Sense of Religion may always rule in our *own Hearts*, and actuate and govern every Part of our *own Conduct and Behaviour* in Life, that we may do nothing by a bad Example ourselves to hurt, or prejudice the Cause of Virtue and Piety, and a further Reformation in the Families and Neighbourhoods where we live.

And, at this Time, in particular, when *vital and practical Christianity* is at such a *low Ebb*; and the Glory is in a great Measure departed from us;—when the Life and Power of Godliness declines, and that little Religion which is left in our Churches is just expiring, may we all shew a more ardent Zeal for the Glory of God, the Virtue and Happiness of Mankind, and exhort one another daily, while it is called to Day, lest any of us be hardened through the Deceitfulness of Sin.

May we all repent, and do our first Works, and bring forth Fruits meet for Repentance, and discover a real and great Concern for the Reformation, as of the World, and of the Nation in general, so of singular and individual Persons, by reforming, every one, his own Temper and Course of Life, correcting all that we find amiss in *ourselves*, in our *Hearts*, our *Houses*, and *Families*, and doing what we can, at the same Time, to reform and amend *others*, so far as our Power and Influence extends.

May we all be truly zealous and solicitous to put away Iniquity far from us, to banish every
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every *evil Spirit*, every *accused Thing* from the Midst of us, that the Lord our God may delight to dwell amongst us.

And, that we may all the better know and understand ourselves, our true *moral State* and *Character*, assist us, we beseech thee, in the Exercise of *sober* and *close Reflection*, and in making a *diligent, upright, and impartial Enquiry*, into our past Lives. May we see and discern, every one, his own Sore, and his own Grief, and every Man the Plague of his own Heart;—and be suitably humbled, at the same Time, for every Thing that we shall find, or feel amiss, in our own Spirit and Practice, tho' it shou'd be never so closely hid, or concealed, from the Notice and View of others.

And, shall we not all of us find, by a very little Search and Enquiry, too much Reason to reproach and condemn ourselves?—If we are not many of us *so bad as others*: Or, if through the *Grace of God*, and the *Knowledge of Christ*, we have hitherto escaped the Pollutions of the World, or have not run into the common and prevailing Vices, and the more flagrant Excesses of the Times; yet have we not a great deal to lament, many Sins to mourn over, and lay to Heart, whenever we look into ourselves, and examine our Hearts and Ways.

Thou, Lord, perfectly knowest all our Wanderings and Mistakes. Our Backslidings and our Declensions have been many and
great,

great, and too apparent to be denied. We have defiled our Garments; we have lost our first Love; and our Temper, Behaviour, and Conversation, at best, is not so holy, regular, and unblameable, as it shou'd be, or as it becomes that pure and undefiled Religion which we all profess to believe and embrace.

Lord help us every one, without any further Delay, to amend our Ways and our Doings which have not been good, and to correct every past Error: and even, when we have given the best Evidence and Proof of our Repentance, may we never trust in ourselves that we are righteous, but remember, that after all we have done, we are unprofitable Servants.

Give us all a new Heart and a better Spirit, and help us to walk in Newness of Life.-- As we have each of us our Share in the national Guilt, may we each of us contribute our Part towards a national Repentance and Reformation, and thus do, as much as in us lies, to prevent Judgments. Hear us, O Lord, in these our Requests, for thy Mercies Sake in Christ Jesus, *Amen*, even so be it, O Lord God.

RESPONSES.

Lord, deal not with us after our Sins, neither reward us as our Iniquities deserve.

And, now, O Lord God, that we may all become the proper Objects of thy Mercy, incline our Hearts, we beseech thee, not only, as at this Time, to make a publick and solemn

lempn Confession of our Sins ; but help us to renounce and forsake them for the Time to come, and to turn unto thee, the Lord our God, from whom we have long and deeply revolted.—
 To this End, may all those Warnings that seem to portend approaching Evil be wisely considered, and duly improved by every one of us. May we all notice thy Doings, and pay a just Regard to the various Dispensations of thy Providence, and especially, when thine Arm, as to all Appearance, is stretched out against us, for *Evil* and not for *Good*. When the Sorest of thy Judgments are abroad in the Earth, and are, or have been *so lately* felt, in many Parts of the World, may we the Inhabitants of this, and of other Lands, learn Righteousness, consider and reform our evil Ways, and hasten our Repentance, and return to God, ere it be too late, and Destruction from the Lord, an overwhelming Destruction, overtake us.—

May we all hear, and fear, and do no more so wickedly, lest those great Evils, of which we are so justly apprehensive at this Day, should eventually come upon us, and involve this Country, as they have done others, in Devastation, Misery, and Ruin.—We deprecate thine Anger, O Lord ; we dread the Effects of thy Displeasure. O turn unto us in Mercy ; save and deliver us when we call upon thee.

Or, if thou seest fit to chastise us in any particular Instances, by the Desolations of War, or of Earthquake, of Famine or Pestilence,
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and this should be found necessary, in the wise and perfect Scheme of thy Providence, to bring about a further Reformation in the Midst of us, Lord correct us, but with Judgment, not in thine Anger, least thou bring us to nothing.

May we all see our *Signs*, the Signs and Tokens of the *present Time*, that we may be the better prepared for any of those Evils that may be coming upon this Earth. — And, whatever may be the *Issues of dark Futurity* with Respect to ourselves, our *Towns, Cities, and Families*, or to our *native Land* in general, Lord awaken us all, and every one, to Care and Watchfulness, and a Sense of *present Duty*, that, being always prepared to meet thee in the Way of thy Judgments, we may submit to thy correcting Hand in every Stroke of thy Rod, and resign ourselves calmly to all thy Dispensations, the severest of which, we know, are wise and merciful, in the Intention of thy Providence.

Lord *open our Ears to discipline*, and *seal Instruction* to our Minds, that we may grow better by every thing that we suffer in this Life, and by all the Warnings and Admonitions which thou art ever and anon giving us, God forbid, that we should repeat our Offences and Provocations, whilst thy *Mercies* and thy *Judgments both concur* to inculcate our Duty, and to point out the only Method of Safety in our present Circumstance. May we none of us dare to continue, or persist, in a State of Sin, a State of Rebellion, after all thy Patience and long Suffering towards us, or to
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wax incorrigible under the repeated and awakening Calls of thy Providence.

But help us, O Lord, whilst thy Judgments are delayed, and Sentence against our evil Works is not speedily executed, to guard against all *Security* and *Presumption*. And, let this inviting Circumstance of the divine Patience and Lenity towards us, never heighten, or embitter, any future Punishments that may befall us in this Life, or in another,—God forbid, that we should any of us risque our Repentance upon an uncertain hereafter, or that we should any of us put the *evil Day*, the Day of Wrath, far from us, whilst we go on in a Course of wilful Sin and Disobedience.

Doth it appear, by many awful and concurring Circumstances, that the God of Nature, the Lord of Hosts, hath now a Controversy with us? O that we may no longer stand it out against him, no longer stretch out the Hand against God, or strengthen ourselves against the Almighty. May we all turn at thy Rebuke, least we are consumed by the Blow of thy Hand, at the Blast of the Breath of thy Nostrils.

We have long, too long, lived in Sin and Rebellion against the God that formed us, and who has hitherto preserved us. May we no longer provoke his Anger and Jealousy against us, but lay down the Weapons of our Hostility without any further Delay, and fly to the Mercy Seat, if so be the Lord our God may yet hear us, and take Pity and Compassion

upon us.—May we trifle no longer ; no longer doubt, or hesitate, what to do : but *now*, while it is called *to-day*, may we turn unto thee, the Lord our God, lay hold on thy Strength, and make our Peace with thee, that the Fierceness of thine Anger, Wrath, and Indignation may be turned away from us.

Lord pity us ; Lord spare us, and be not angry at the Prayer of thy Servants —And, give us, we beseech thee, not only a present and temporary Reprieve from those Judgments which seem to threaten us ; but grant, O Lord, that, by a particular Repentance, and a timely and thorough Reformation, we may be encouraged to hope in thy Mercy still, and the Tokens of thy wonted Favour and Benignity may be continued to us, and to our Posterity after us.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our Requests. Let our Souls live, and we will praise thee. And let the Ages and Generations that are yet to come Hope in thee, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. *Amen.*

R E S P O N S E S.

Lord what wait we for ? Our Hope is in thee, Shew us thy Mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy Salvation.

And now, to the One Supreme God and Father of all, who is glorious in Holiness, fearful in Praises, doing Wonders, be Glory, Honour, and Praise in all the Churches, by Jesus Christ, the one Mediator, both now and for ever, *Amen.*—

N. B.

[N. B. *Here followed the Sermon, and afterwards this.*]

The concluding Prayer and Intercession.

O LORD, thou art infinitely great, independently happy and self-sufficient, and God over all blessed for ever.—But, though thou art supreme in Power and Majesty, in Happiness and Glory, and art infinitely exalted above us, and all other Beings in Heaven and in Earth, yet thou art kind and good to all thy Creatures, to the numerous Inhabitants of this World, and to every Part of thine universal Family.

The Evil and the Good, the Just and the Unjust, all share in the Bounties of thy common Providence, in the Benefits of the Earth, and the Air, and the various Seasons. But thou hast always shewn a more especial and distinguishing Regard to pious, humble, upright praying Souls. The Sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit; a broken and a contrite Heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Thou lovest Righteousness, and hatest Iniquity, and thou art no Respector of Persons. Thou regardest not the Rich more than the Poor, for they are all the Work of thy Hands.—And, as they all alike depend upon thee, are all frail, mutable, sinful, dying Creatures, so thou, Lord, without any, the least Partiality, art rich in Mercy to all who call upon thee in Truth and Sincerity.

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Though thou art high, yet hast thou Respect to the lowly ; but thou beholdest the Proud afar off. O look down upon us thine unworthy Creatures, who desire to appear before thee, now, and at all Times, as penitent Sinners, and humble Supplicants, and lend a favourable and gracious Ear to all our Petitions,—Our entire Dependance is upon thee and all our Expectations and Hopes are founded in thy Mercy. O forgive our Sins, and heal all our Maladies and Diseases. Revive thy Work, O Lord, in the Midst of the Days, these Days of great Lukewarmness and Degeneracy. Strengthen the Things which remain, and are ready to die. And help us all, without Exception, to correct and reform whatever has been wrong, or irregular, in our past Lives.

We have often provoked thine Anger and Jealousy, thy Wrath and Indignation against us. Our own Iniquities correct us, and our Backslidings reprove us. We have all corrupted our Ways, and have sadly declined from the Paths of Wisdom, and Virtue, and serious Piety.—Ah ! where is the Lord God of Elijah ! Where is our antient Purity, Zeal, and Christian Charity ! How low are we sunk and degenerate with Respect to our religious moral State and Character !—May we all of us, this Day mourn and *lament after the Lord*, our God, and seek him with the greatest Earnestness and Importunity, while he may be yet found of us. May we all become more
humble,

humble, serious, and circumspect, in every part of our Conversation. May we fly to God as our Sanctuary, make him our Strength and our Refuge in the Day of Evil, and be thus prepared for any of those Judgments that may befall a sinful Land and Nation.

We deprecate thine Anger, O Lord, we humbly implore thy continued favour and Protection. Scatter the Clouds that hang over us: Turn unto us in Mercy; and let thine Anger be turned away from us. Have Mercy upon us, O God, have Mercy upon us, and avert the Tokens of thy Displeasure.

Thou, Lord, hast been our Dwelling-place in all Generations. Our Fathers cried unto thee, and were delivered. They trusted in thee, and were not confounded. Let us partake of the same Favour, while we cry unto thee, and repose our humble Trust and Confidence in thee.

Thou hast never yet said to the Seed of *Jacob*, the Seed of *Israel*, or to any sincere and humble Supplicants, Seek ye me in vain. O let it not be said, *now*, at *this time*, that we have sought thy Face, and have not found thee.

We, of *this Nation*, have often had repeated and publick Testimonies given us of thy merciful Interposure in return to the united and solemn Prayers of thy Church and People. We have often cried unto thee, in the Day of our Distress, and thou hast heard us.

And,

And, when we have been upon the very Brink of Ruin, thou hast once and again saved us. Thou, Lord, hast holpen us with the saving Strength of thy right Hand. Thou hast been our Habitation and Refuge, an high Tower, and an impregnable Defence, in Times of Adversity. Lord, command Salvation for us. Be thou on our Side, as in former Times, when Men rise up against us. Be thou our Rere-ward, the Sword of our Help, and the Shield of our Excellency, and appoint Salvation for Walls and Bulwarks.

To thee we commit all our Affairs, trusting, that there are yet many in the Land, many righteous praying Souls, who shall have Power with God and prevail, many who have not as yet defiled their Garments, or bowed down to Idols, to false Gods, or false Mediators. Be entreated, O Lord, to spare us, and make thy Power and Providence illustrious in our present critical and dangerous Situation. Our Sins are many and great, and so are those Evils and Calamities which at present threaten us. Lord save us, or, we perish. Rebuke us not in thine Anger, neither chasten us in thy hot Displeasure, but according to thy Mercy remember thou us, for thy Goodness sake, O Lord. We have much to fear from our Enemies, when their Rage is kindled against us, but we have more, infinitely more, to fear from the Hand of God, when by our Sins He is justly provoked. According to thy Fear so is thy Wrath; and who

who may stand in thy Sight when once thou art angry? Lord, give us true Repentance for all our Sins, and teach us to do Works meet for Repentance. Shew us our Guilt and Danger ere it be too late, and save us from every fatal Disaster.

Save us from Famine, Pestilence, and Earthquake, and from all those jarring Elements which seem at this Day combined against us. Let no destructive Evil befall our Persons; let no Plague come near our Dwellings. Let not the Fire consume us; let not the Waters overwhelm us; let not the tremors and convulsions of the Earth overturn our Cities, Churches, or Habitations. May we dwell securely under the Shadow of the Almighty: In thy Pavilion, in thy secret Place, do thou hide us.

And, save us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, from all those other Evils and Calamities that may be ruinous, or greatly distressing, to the Inhabitants of this Land. — Let not the Sword devour us, or the Enemy invade us, and turn thy Hand against all our Adversaries. Be present with us in time of Trouble, and deliver us from the Power and Malice of all them that hate us, that they may never have the Advantage in any of their secret Practices, or open Attempts against us. Lord, give us Help from Trouble, for vain is the Help of Man, without thine Aid and Succour. Do thou, Lord, undertake for us; maintain our Right and our Cause. Stretch out thy Hand against the Wrath of our Enemies,

mies, and let thy right Hand save us. Thou art a great King over all the Earth: And who is so great a God, as our God? Our Help is in the Name of the Lord who made Heaven and Earth, We acknowledge no Author of Peace and Happiness but only thee, O God. Let Wars cease to the Ends of the Earth, and let all Nations of Men learn to cultivate the Arts of Peace more than the Arts of War.

May the Princes and Rulers of this World be better united one with another, and all their Quarrels and Contests subside. Let the common Cause of true Religion, the Virtue, Peace, and Happiness of Mankind, be the Object of their greater Care and Attention. Let the Fear of God rule in their Hearts. Let the Principles of Righteousness and Equity guide and influence all their Counsels. Let the Law of Nature and of Nations, the Law of Humanity and universal Benevolence, so govern their whole Behaviour in every part of Life, that they may be entitled to all due Honour and Respect. We pray, in a more especial manner, that the Cause of Liberty, and the Rights of Conscience, may become dear and sacred to all Christian Rulers, Governors, and Magistrates; that the Kingdoms of this World may, in due time, more universally become the Kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Anointed.

This is our Consolation and Support, amidst all the political Shakings and Convulsions which are in the World at this Day, that the
Shields

Shields of the Earth belong unto thee, O Lord, and that thou art the Governor among the Nations. The Hearts of Princes, and of the greatest Potentates, are in thy Hands, and thou turnest them as the Rivers of Waters which way thou pleatest. — Appear, O Lord, in this our present fluctuating State, to reconcile and compose all our Differences, and to prevent, if it be thy blessed Will, any further Waste of human Blood and Treasure.

To *this* end, we pray for Success in our present Undertakings, so long as we are pursuing no other Measures than what are necessary for our own Preservation and Security, and are only engaged in the righteous and equitable Cause of maintaining our *own*, and not in molesting the Properties of others. — And, we pray, O God, that, by the present *Means*, a safe and honourable Peace may at length be obtained, that the Calamities of a general War may be prevented, that our Enemies may be hindered from making any further Encroachments, or from supporting those already made, and that both Parties may be brought to hearken to such Terms of Accommodation as are right and fit, just and reasonable in the present Circumstances.

Let the Measures and Engagements now entered into, on the Part of *Great Britain*, be found salutary and effectual to this desirable and important end. And let the Wisdom and Moderation, the Zeal and Unanimity of the King and his Parliament at this Conjunction, have their due Weight and Influence, to procure

cure all those good Consequences that we are this Day praying for.

Shew us, O Lord, some Token for Good, that our Enemies and our Foes may see it, and be ashamed. Afford us thy gracious Aid and Protection whenever we go forth to meet the Enemy. Cover and defend our Fleets and our Armies in every Enterprize. And give Success and Victory to all those, who jeopard their Lives in the Honour and Defence of their King and Country.

Thou art the Watchman of *Israel*, and thou never slumberest; — Guard, we beseech thee, and preserve our Coasts from every Surprise: Suffer not Strangers to devour our Strength, or to lay waste our Borders. Let there be no tumultuous breaking in, or going out, amongst us, nor any complaining in our Streets. — The Lord is a Man of War; the Lord of Hosts is his Name; do thou fight our Battles for us; and go on to bless us, until we see our Desire upon them that hate us. Continue our Successes, if it be thy blessed Will, until such Overtures are made, and such Measures concerted, as shall prove the Basis of an honourable and a lasting Peace.

Lord, restore and continue to us this great and desirable Blessing. Save, now, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech thee, send now Prosperity. May we all rejoice and be glad in thee, and let our Glory be great in thy Salvation. Thou art the Living God, the great Jehovah, and the Saviour of thy Church and People in every Age. Thou art our God, the God of
our

our Salvation, to whom belong the issues from Death. And, as thou art the Lord of Life, so the absolute Disposal of our Lives and Fortunes, and of all that is dear and valuable to us, is in thy Hands. Do thou, Lord, appear for us, and so strengthen our Hands against the common Enemy, that we may be enabled to disappoint, or repel, every Attempt that is made against us.

In thee, O Lord, do we put our Trust, let us never be ashamed of our Confidence in thee, or be disappointed in our present Hopes. To thee we fly for Safety and Protection from the Face of every imminent, every threatening Danger. Thine Arm, O Lord, is not shortened that it cannot save, neither is thine Ear heavy that it cannot hear. O turn unto us in Mercy; and help us to turn unto thee with the whole Heart, and not feignedly. Be thou our God, and make us thy People, a peculiar People, zealous of good Works. To this end, may we all hear the Voice of God, hearken to the Calls of his Word and Providence this Day, and no longer harden our Hearts as the *Israelites* did in the Provocation, in the Day of Temptation in the Wilderness. As we dread their Plagues, may we shun their Vices, and detest and abhor all those crimes for which thou hast at any Time punished, or laid waste and desolate, other Countries, Cities, and Kingdoms.

May we mourn together, and mourn apart, Persons apart and Families apart, for the Sins of the present Age, and turn unto thee, the
Lord

Lord our God, from the highest to the lowest, from the King upon the Throne to the meanest Subject in weeping, fasting and Prayer. May we lament and mourn for our own Sins, and the Sins of the Nation, and to do, what we can, every one in his private Station, to further and promote a general Reformation, by keeping up the Worship, and the Fear of God, in our Houses and Families, and a deep and governing Sense of Religion upon our own Hearts. May we call upon God while He is near, a God at hand, and not a God afar off. May we seek the Lord and his Strength, seek his Face evermore.

Have we all sinned? May we all hasten our Repentance and return to God, without any further Delay, before his Wrath devour us, and there is none escaping. Let this be the inward serious Purpose of every Soul here present before thee, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? What I see not teach thou me." And let not the Heart of any single Person in this Assembly ever reproach or smite him, for knowingly or wilfully counteracting the solemn Transactions of this Day.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our Requests, and let thy gracious Help and Assistance so concur with our present Purposes to repent, reform, and amend our Lives, that the Remainder of our Days being pure and holy, we may finally obtain everlasting Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

RESPONSES.

Have Mercy upon us, O God, according to thy lovingkindness, and according to the Multitude of thy tender Mercies blot out our Transgressions. Hear our Prayers, O Lord, give Ear to our Supplications; in thy Faithfulness answer us and in thy Righteousness.

And, now, O Lord God, we would further offer up our Prayers to thee for our Fellow Creatures, and for all Mankind, of every Quality and Condition. To thy paternal Care and watchful Providence we would commend the KING upon the Throne, our rightful Lord and Sovereign, his Royal *Highbness George, Prince of Wales*, the *Princess Dowager of Wales*, the *Duke*, the *Princesses*, and every Branch of the Royal Family.

May our KING rule us in Righteousness, and long see his Seed's Seed and Peace upon Israel. Hide him, O Lord, from the secret Counsel of the ungodly, and from the Insurrection of the Workers of Iniquity. Endow his Royal Soul with all Wisdom and Understanding in the weighty and arduous Affairs of Government, and with all Christian and heroick Virtues. — Let Mercy and Truth preserve him: satisfy him with long Life, and a prosperous Reign, and then shew him thy Salvation. Crown all his laudable and just Endeavours, for the Good of his People with thy Blessing. Let thy Hand be upon the Man of thy right Hand. Guide, animate, and succeed all his Councils and Undertakings for the publick Good, and the Welfare of these Nations.

Bless

Bless all the *Nobility* and *Gentry* of this Land, all the Members of his Majesty's most honourable privy Council, our Magistrates and our Judges, and all who are now assembled in *Parliament* : And, grant, O Lord, that they may all unite in the glorious Cause of Truth, and Liberty, Peace and Loyalty.

May thy *Ministers*, likewise, of every Denomination be wise, and faithful, and greatly successful in the Word and Doctrine. Make them wise to win Souls, good Stewards, faithful Watchmen and Overseers, that they may know how, and when, to give Warning, and to distribute to every one his Portion of Meat in due Season.

Save thy People, and bless thine Inheritance ; give Strength to thy People, O Lord, and bless all thy People with Peace.—May we, and all the Inhabitants of this Land, all the Subjects of King *George*, learn to live quiet and peaceable Lives in all Godliness and Honesty, and to make a thankful and good Use of all our Liberties, both civil and religious.

And, have a particular Regard, we beseech thee, to the Poor, the Needy, and the Afflicted. We would remember them that are in Bonds as bound with them, and those that are in Adversity, as being ourselves also in the Body.—“ Behold with a tender Pity and Compassion all those who have suffered by the late publick Calamities in Body, Estate, Friends, or Relations.” Help them to hear and receive Instruction, and to cast away all their Abominations. May they no longer make
Inqui-

Inquisition for Blood, or punish and torture the Innocent under a Pretence of Conscience, or from a mistaken Zeal for their own Errors and Superstitions, in Opposition to the plainest and clearest Principles of divine Revelation, and even of Humanity itself.

We would also pray, as we are bound by all the sacred Ties of Christianity, for those our *protestant Brethren* who labour under great Discouragements upon Account of thy holy Religion in Popish Countries, and who are, many of them, now witnessing in Sackcloth, and Ashes.—Lord break in Pieces every Oppressor, and suffer not unreasonable and wicked Men to triumph over thy People and Heritage, or bid Defiance to all the Laws of natural Justice and Equity. Wilt not thou, O Lord God, holy and true, avenge thyself for all the innocent Blood that has been spilt to the Scandal of Religion, and the Dishonour of thy Name and Gospel? Arise, O Lord, and plead thine own Cause with them that blaspheme thy Truth, and persecute thy People.

Instruct and enlighten all Mankind with the Knowledge of sacred Truth, the Truth as it is in Jesus, and fill the Hearts of all Christian People, of all professed Protestants, with a greater Sense of all natural and moral Obligations, with all just Principles of Moderation and Charity, and a Spirit of mutual Love and Condescension. — Enlighten those of the *Romish Church*, in particular, who yet labour under much Darkness and Error, Superstition and Prejudice, with the true Knowledge of

thy Son's Gospel in it's genuine Purity and Simplicity. Lord give them Repentance to the Acknowledgment of the Truth, and greater Charity to those that differ from them, and yet hold the Head, even Christ.

And, now, O Lord God, our entire Dependance and Trust is in thee. Hear the Prayers that we have been offering up unto thee at this Time, hear in Heaven thy dwelling Place, and bestow upon us an Answer of Peace. Help us, O God of our Salvation, for the Glory of thy Name: O deliver us, and be merciful to us, for thy Name's Sake.—Let us all search and try our Ways. Let us rent our Hearts and not our Garments, and turn unto the Lord, that He may have Mercy upon us, and repent him of the Evil which He thought to do unto us.

Lord teach and assist us all, henceforward, to bring forth Fruits meet for Repentance in a holy obedient and well ordered Life; and to discover a more hearty and becoming Zeal for thy Honour and Service, that we may evermore rejoice in thy Salvation, and Glory in thy holy Name.—

And finally, O Lord, whatever Events overtake us in this Life, may we all be enabled to walk so as to please God, and secure our *everlasting Interest*;—and, teach us, at the same Time, always to entertain and cherish such high, honourable, and worthy Thoughts of God, and Providence, as never to live under the slavish Apprehension and Dread of any *temporal Evils*.

And

And, now to that infinite Almighty Being, who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask, or think, or are worthy to receive;—to him be Glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all Ages, World without End. *Amen.*

RESPONSES.

Blessing, and Glory, and Wisdom, and Thanksgiving, and Honour, and Power, and Might, be unto our God forever and ever.

Our Father which art in Heaven, &c. &c.

And, now may Grace, Mercy, and Peace, and every Blessing from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, be amongst you, and remain with you, always. *Amen, and Amen.*

AN ACT OF HUMILIATION;

Or, the additional Prayer, more immediately adapted to the Situation, and Aspect of our national Affairs at this Day.

O LORD, thou art the great Ruler and Governor of the World. The Heaven is thy Throne, and the Earth is thy Footstool. And, thou dost from thy Throne in Heaven, the Place of thy Habitation, look down upon all Nations of Men, upon all the Inhabitants of the Earth. Thou hast *fashioned their Hearts alike* : thou *condest all their Works*. Thou hast a perfect Understanding and *Knowledge* of all Things,—for thou hast *made* all Things ; and thy Dominion, Power, and Agency, are universal and unlimited, We know, O Lord,

that thou canst do every thing, and that nothing can arise to hinder, or frustrate, the Thoughts and Purposes of thy Heart, or to defeat the wise and perfect Plan of thy Government.—When the deepest Schemes and Councils of Men are all broken and disconcerted, thy Council shall stand, and the Thoughts of thy Heart to all Generations.

And, amidst all that Confusion and Disorder that appears in the World at this Day, we would rejoice in thy Supremacy, as the *King of Kings*, and the *Lord of Lords*. We would address thee, as the great Arbiter and Judge of human Affairs, and the wise Disposer of all Events. The *Hearts of Kings*, the Hearts of all Men, are in thy Hands, as the *Streams of Water*, to turn them which Way thou pleatest. Thou cuttest off the Spirit of Princes; thou weakenest the Strength of the Mighty; and thou art terrible to the Kings of the Earth. Who can stay thy Hand, or say unto thee, “what dost thou?” Righteous art thou, O Lord, when we plead with thee, and true and upright are thy Judgments. Let all the Earth fear thee; let all the Inhabitants of the World stand in Awe of thy Majesty.

Thou, Lord, hast made thyself known to us in various Ways;—in thy Word, and in thy Works;—in the still Voice of Nature, and in the louder Alarms of thy Providence;—in the more usual and gentle Methods of Mercy, Lenity, and Forbearance;—and, at some times, in those awful Judgments which thou art pleased to execute in this lower World.—And,
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whenever we contemplate thy Holiness, Power, and Justice, and read, or hear, of the Majesty and Terror of thy Name, we would fear before thee, and stand in Awe of thy Judgments.—And, at this Time, especially, when we have another solemn Call to publick Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer, we would endeavour to get our Minds and Hearts affected with the deepest Sense of our Guilt and Danger, and of the present Appearances of thy Providence towards us.

Thou, Lord, hast hitherto been our God, and treated us as a People, near to thyself, as a *peculiar People*, who have been highly favoured, and greatly distinguished above many other Nations in the World. Thou hast long waited upon us, after many and repeated Provocations; and thou hast often stretched out thine Arm to save us when we have been upon the very Brink of Ruin.—But, thou seemest, at this Day, to have a Controversy with us; and thy Hand, O Lord, is in all Appearance, lifted up against us.

And, if we look into ourselves, or cast our Eyes round about us, such are the Tokens of thy Displeasure, and such is our moral State and Character, that our Hearts may well meditate Terror, and Fear and Trembling take hold of us.—Our Transgressions are multiplied, our Backslidings are encreased, and our Sins testify against us. We lie down in our Shame, and our Confusion covers us; and it is of thy Mercy, O Lord, that we are not consumed.

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We have all sinned, and come short of thy Glory; and, from the lowest of the People, even, to our *great Men* and *Rulers*, we have not known the Way of the Lord, nor the Judgments of our God; but have violated thy holy, righteous, and good Laws, and broke through every moral Obligation and Restraint which thou hast laid upon us. The *Head is sick*, the *Heart is faint*, and the Body of the People, the whole Community, is sadly corrupt and degenerate. We have all sinned, and done Evil in thy Sight. We are all gone aside. We are all over, as an unclean Thing. And, it becomes us all, this Day, without Exception, to bemoan our wretched and sinful State, to repent in Dust and Ashes, and to loath ourselves in our own Sight for all our Iniquities, and for all our Abominations.

Thou, Lord, knowest, and we ourselves cannot but see, and lament, the abounding Iniquity of the present Age, and the visible Decay of Piety and Virtue in the midst of us. — We are a *sinful Nation*, a *People laden with Iniquity*! and we have all of us contributed more or less, to heighten and increase the present Load of national Guilt. We have been foolish and disobedient, serving divers Lusts and Pleasures, and have followed too much the Counsels and Imaginations of our own Hearts. We have *walked after Vanity*, and *are become vain*. We have sought out many Inventions, and run into many Follies and Extravagancies, which our Forefathers and Ancestors, in this Land, were Strangers to. — Ah! where is our antient Probity,

Probity, Purity, and Simplicity of Manners? Our commendable and wonted Zeal for God and Religion; for the Honour of public Worship, and divine Institutions? *How is the Gold become dim, and the fine Gold changed!* — We are here before thee in our Trespases: And, we cannot deny, we cannot defend, or excuse any of our Crimes.—And, as the natural Consequence of our growing Enormities, and prevailing Vices, we have too much Reason to fear the severest of thy Judgments; that Wrath and Indignation should come upon us to the utmost;—and that thine Anger, O Lord, when once kindled, should wax hot against us, until it have consumed us.

Thou hast given us many mild, salutary and good Laws, for the Conduct and Regulation of our Lives;—but we have hated Instruction, and cast thy Words behind us, and have been ready to say in our Hearts, “Who is the Almighty that we should serve him? We desire not the Knowledge of thy Ways.”

Thou hast been calling upon us, time after time, “Return, ye back-sliding Children, and I will heal your Backslidings.” —But thou hast hitherto stretched out thy Hand to a disobedient, rebellious, and gainsaying People.

We have been summoned, once and again, to these publick Exercises of Fasting and Prayer;—but we have not yet mourned and lamented for our Sins, as we ought to have done, neither have we laid our Transgressions to Heart.

All the Methods of Entreaty and Persuasion, of Loving-kindness, Mercy, and Forbearance,
have

have hitherto been lost upon us ; or too little noticed and improved by us. And few, if any of us, have known, or considered, *the time of our Visitation*, so as to be moved by thy Threatenings, or allured by thy Benefits, or reformed by thy Word.

And, Ah ! how often have we slighted the severer Rebukes of thy Providence ?--*Thy Judgments*, O Lord, have been *made manifest*, even, *as the Light that goeth forth*. We have seen, and heard, and felt them ; and we cannot but adore thy hand in all that has hitherto befallen us.

Thou hast been calling upon us, by the repeated *Earthquakes* which have been, and still are in many Places, to think on our Ways, and to amend our Lives, lest a sudden and irresistible Destruction overwhelm us : but who amongst us have hearkened to these Reproofs, or made the proper Use of them ?

And, thou art still pleading and expostulating with us. — The Rod of thine Anger and Displeasure now hangs over us : And, thou art calling, *as in a solemn Day*, thy Terrors round about : — But who amongst us repenteth him of his Wickedness, saying, *What have I done ?* Every one turneth to his Course, as the Horse rusheth into the Battle, without any Consideration, or Fear of approaching Danger ?

Many, O Lord, are the Tokens of thy Displeasure, and the Warnings which thou art now giving us.— Our *Difficulties at home*, and our *Losses abroad* ; the Expences of *War*, and the Power and Progress of a *restless and implacable*

cable Enemy, are what we cannot but notice and look upon at this Day, as sensible Marks of thy Displeasure. — Thou hast, once and again, blasted our Hopes, and disappointed our Arms, and our Councils ; but we have been too insensible to the Hand of God in these things. We have *dwelt carelessly*, and lived securely, in Pride, Wantonness, and Luxury, and have forgotten God, our Maker, who hath done many great and wonderful things for us. — We have trusted too much to an *Arm of Flesh*, to our own Sword, our own Wisdom, Power, and Might, and, even, said in our Hearts, “ *there is none besides us* ; there is no Nation greater “ or mightier than we.” Our Hearts have departed from the Lord ; and, instead of making thee our Strength and Refuge, we have placed too great a Confidence in Man, and offered Sacrifice to our own Vanity, by indulging to a Spirit of Pride, Arrogance, and Self-sufficiency. We have presumed too much upon our own Strength, our own Stores, relied upon our Armaments and naval Forces, upon our military Skill, Conduct, and Valour. — But, Ah ! how few are there who understand and seek God, and pay their Homage to the Lord of Hosts ? what little Reverence and Regard have any of us paid to God and Providence ? How many amongst us *are settled upon their Lees*, and live securely in Ease and Plenty, but have not God in all their Thoughts ? Nay, how many are there, at this Day, who are ready to say, (even, when they are committing
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the vilest Abominations,) *the Lord will not do Good, neither will he do Evil.*

Such, O Lord, is our present unhappy and deplorable State! And such, at the same time, are the awful Signals of thine uplifted Hand, that our Hearts may well fail us for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the Earth.

Thou hast stricken, thou hast smitten us, but we have not grieved; we have refused to receive Correction. — And how justly mightest thou *recompence our Iniquity, and our Sin, double upon us*, by turning our Peace and Plenty into Confusion and Scarcity, as a deserved Punishment for our wanton Abuse of thy Mercies? — And, since we have not served thee, the Lord our God, in the Abundance of all things, how justly mightest thou call us to serve our Enemies, in Hunger, and Thirst, and Nakedness, and in the Want of all things? Ah! how easily cou'dst thou avenge thyself upon a sinful Nation, and plead thine own Cause with a stubborn and rebellious People? How soon cou'dst thou infatuate all our Councils; throw all our Fleets, our Armaments, and strongholds into the Enemies Hands, and cause a rebellious, factious, and perverse Spirit, to spread and diffuse itself through the Land? How soon cou'dst thou make our *pleasant Portion*, a desolate Wilderness, and turn that long Day of Light and Liberty, that we have been favoured with, into a Day of Trouble and Distress, a Day of Clouds, and of thick Darkness? and, instead of blessing us, as thou hast hitherto done, in
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our *Basket and Store*, in our *Husbandry and Merchandize*, in the *Fruits of the Field*, and in all our *Encrease*, how soon, how easily cou'dst thou turn a *fruitful Land* into Barrenness, cause our Cattle and our Substance to decrease, and give our Labour to the *Caterpillar*, and the *Locust*?

In how many awful and unknown Ways cou'dst thou blast and destroy our Health, our Lives, our Fortunes, by bringing upon us sickly and unkind Seasons,—by a pining Famine, by the raging Pestilence, by a furious Enemy, or by cutting off all the Resources of our Wealth, both at home and abroad? — And, that thou hast not yet struck all our Comforts dead, and brought upon us the severest Plagues, the heaviest Judgments, is a Proof, O Lord, of thy sparing Mercy, and of thy great Clemency; for there are yet many Arrows in thy Quiver, and thou mightest yet punish us seven times more for our Iniquities. Who knows the Power of thine Anger? According to thy Fear, so is thy Wrath.

It is owing, in particular, to thy great and abundant Mercy, and because thy Compassions fail not, that we, of this Land and Nation, are yet a *free and independent* People; that we enjoy our ancient Laws, and our Rights and Liberties unmolested; that no foreign, or domestick Yoke is imposed upon us; and that we are Strangers to that Cruelty, that Oppression and Slavery, that are seen and felt this Day, in many other Places.—Blessed be God, that we dwell in our Land safely, that our Country is

not *ever-run with Strangers*, that the Enemy is not suffered to ravage amongst us, or the Boar out of the Forest to devour us; that our Cities, and our Houses, are not laid waste without Inhabitant, and the whole Kingdom utterly desolate. — Blessed be thy Name, that the *Sword* is not devouring Flesh, nor drinking in Blood amongst us; that *popish Flammess* are not rekindled, and the Instruments of Persecution and Death let loose upon us; that we are not harrassed, and vexed, with the *tyrannical* and *arbitrary Power* of wicked and unrighteous Men; but that we can sit every Man under his own Vine, and under his own Fig-tree, none making us afraid.

But, ah! how long have we slighted and abused these thy Mercies? How often have we forfeited all our Privileges, both civil and religious? Adored be thy Goodness, praised be thy Name, that we are yet spared, yet reprieved; that the Besom of Destruction, the overflowing Scourge, has not yet passed through our Land; and that thou, O Lord, art waiting to be gracious, and giving us Time, and Space to repent.

Thou, O Lord, art slow to Anger, and rich in Mercy. Thou hast a tender Regard to all thine Offspring, and thou delightest not in the *Death of Sinners*. Pardon and forgive us, O merciful God; upon the gracious Terms of thy Gospel. Avert, we beseech thee, all those Judgments which we have most righteously deserved, and continue the Blessings we yet enjoy, by leading us, and all the Inhabitants of this Land,

Land, to a timely Repentance and Reformation.

—Arise, O Lord, for our Help: Save and deliver us when we call upon thee. Turn us, O God, and we shall be turned. Save us, O Lord, and we shall be saved.

And, to this end, give us all a due Sense of our Guilt and Danger. Preserve us, we entreat thee, from a Slumber and Security in Sin and Vice. Give us not over to *Blindness of Mind*, to *Hardness of Heart*, or an *incorrigible Temper*. May we no longer persist in our Obstinacy and Rebellion, or go on in the same perverse and thoughtless manner that we have done, to provoke thine Anger and Jealousy, and treasure up Wrath against the Day of Wrath. But help us all, in this our Day, to know, embrace, and pursue the things that belong to our Peace, before they are hid from our Eyes.

And, since thou, O Lord, after all that hath come upon us for our evil Deeds, and for our Trespases, hast hitherto punished us less than our Iniquities have deserved, may we no longer break thy Commandments. May we no longer go on to encrease and multiply our Provocations, or to adopt the Follies and the Vices of other Nations.

And may our Repentance be *speedy* and *universal*.—May we *now*, without any further Delay, think on our Ways, and turn our Feet unto thy Testimonies. May we all hear, and fear, and do no more so wickedly, lest the Fire of thine Anger consume us.—And, let it not suffice us, to abstain from some Sins, whilst we knowingly and wilfully indulge to others; or
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to live in the Practice of some Duties, whilst others, of equal Obligation and Moment, are totally and shamefully neglected. But help us, O Lord, to renounce and forsake every Sin; to do Works meet for Repentance; and to bring forth all the Fruits of Righteousness, in a holy, obedient, and well-ordered Life, to the Glory of thy holy Name.

We are brought low by our Iniquities! Lord, reform and amend us, but do not destroy us. *Correct us;—but in Judgment;—not in thine Anger, lest thou bring us to nothing.* Save us from those Lusts and Vices which will always be found our worst and greatest Enemies, and assist us in the Practice of all those Virtues which are the surest Defence, and the best Security in Times of Danger. Make us all truly and deeply sensible that no outward Profession, even of the purest Religion, no boasted Privileges, no hypocritical Pretensions, will avail us any thing; and that nothing short of true Repentance, and a real Reformation, will ever save a guilty and sinful Land.

God forbid, that we should any of us mistake the Terms of Mercy, and deceive our own selves.—May our Repentance and Sorrow for Sin, be so *universal* and *extensive*, so *heartly* and *sincere*, that we may have no Room to despair of the Mercy of God through Faith in Jesus Christ; and may our Faith in Christ, and in his Gospel, at the same time, be so *wise* and *rational*, that we may never presume upon the Mercy of God without Repentance and a holy Life.

Lord,

Lord, open our Eyes to see our true Interest; and help us to apply the only true and proper Remedy of all our Disorders, ere it be too late. May we all hearken to the Calls of Providence, and turn unto the Lord from whom we have long and deeply revolted, that He may be our God, and we may be his People.

Preserve and continue a godly and righteous Seed in this Nation. — Let true Religion and the Power of Godliness be transmitted from one Person and Family to another. And let all the present Generations of Men grow wiser and better, that the Light of Religion may be kept up in the World, and the Interests of Virtue and Piety may be maintained and supported in every Age.

Lord, make us a wise, a righteous, and a holy Nation, a truly penitent and reformed People, that our national Liberty and Glory may stand and flourish as the Recompence of our national Virtue. Heal our distempered Minds; cure all our evil Dispositions and Prejudices; and compose all our unhappy Divisions and Animosities; and let no perverse Spirit, at this Time, go forth amongst us, to throw us into Confusion and Disorder, or cause to dash one against another, lest we are broken in pieces. Let Christian Light and Truth, Holiness and Charity encrease. And may all those great and common Privileges which we yet enjoy, as a Protestant Nation and a free People, be duly prized and better improved.

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Let our Liberty never degenerate into Licentiousness; or our Religion dwindle into idle Ceremony and Superstition. Banish from amongst us a blind mistaken Zeal and Bigotry, a Spirit of Scepticism and Infidelity, and every thing that is contrary to *sound Doctrine*, to the Faith, Purity, and Simplicity of the Gospel. Preserve us, especially, from all those Errors that may have a bad Influence upon our Lives and Morals. And grant, O Lord, that we, and all professed *Protestants*, may adhere more steadily to the *Truth as it is in Jesus*, and not hold the Truth in Unrighteousness.

Put an End, a speedy End, we beseech thee, to all our national Follies and Enormities,—to all that Impiety and Profaneness,—that Violence, Fraud, and Injustice,—that Venality and Corruption,—that Intemperance, and Lewdness, and exorbitant Love of sensual Pleasures, which are but to rise and prevalent amongst us at this Day. Cure our Pride and Levity,—our Avarice and Ambition,—our Indolence and Security,—our vain-Glory and Self-confidence. Save us from all luxurious Vices, from all expensive Vanities, and from all that Prodigality, and wanton Abuse of national Liberty, Peace, and Plenty, which is but too visible amongst all Orders and Degrees of Men.—These Things, O Lord, are what we now justly lament and mourn over. Alas! how corrupt and debauched are our Morals? how low and languishing are our religious Affairs? And, how little Virtue, Honour, and Decency is left amongst us?—Save us, O Lord, by a timely Repentance
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and Reformation from all the dreadful Consequences of a national and general Depravity, and purge away all our Abominations for thy Names Sake.

As the great Ruler and Governor of the World, we direct our united and fervent Requests to thee, for the happy Issue of all our publick and national Affairs.—Secure to us all our Rights and Possessions, both at home and abroad. Go forth with our Fleets and Armies in every new Expedition and Enterprize, and gird them with Strength unto Battle. Scatter our Enemies, and make thy mighty Power to be known. Be thou the *Sword of our Help*, and the *Shield of our Excellency*; and let thy right Hand, save us.

Thou, Lord, lovest Righteousness, and hatest all Falshood and Wrong. Do thou stand by us in the Maintenance of that just Cause in which we are engaged. Bless us with Union and good Success. And be pleased in due Time to restore Peace to every Part of the Globe. Put an End to the Desolations of War and Blood-shed. And, when thou seekest best and fittest manifest thy glorious Justice in giving a Check to that Ambition and Cruelty, which has been the Cause of so great Calamities to so great a Part of the World.

And, now, Lord, what wait we for? Our Hope is in thee. Amidst all our Cares and Fears for ourselves, and for our Posterity, we would still trust in thy good Providence; we rejoice to think that the Lord most high reigneth

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neth, that an infallible Pilot sits at the Helm, that an all-seeing and a gracious Eye watches over, and observes every thing that can befall us, and that the most skilful, wise, and tender Hand directs and governs every Event in the best and fittest Manner.

Unto thee, O Lord, we finally commit and commend ourselves; our King, and our Country, our Families, and our Friends, our Liberties, our Lives, our Fortunes, and all that is dear and valuable to us in this Day of Trouble and Distress. Have Mercy upon us, O God, have Mercy upon us; for thou art our Glory and our Defence. Hear our Prayers, give Ear to our Supplications, in thy Faithfulness answer us, and in thy Righteousness.—And, now, to that infinitely wise righteous, merciful, and good Being, who is able to do for us, above all that we ask or think, be Glory, through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever; *Amen.*

F I N I S.